

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1726, April 19, 1952

Many Happy Returns of the Day



Next Monday is the 26th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, seen here with the Duke of Edinburgh and their two children

DJUNGARAI'S FACE HAS GONE ROUND THE WORLD

Out in the arid, lonely country west of Alice Springs, Central Australia, where the winds are dry, the evenings peaceful, and the pastel colours of the sands always pleasant to the eye, an Australian Aborigine has gone "walk-about" little knowing how famous his face has become.

Djungarai has his head on the famous Australian half-crown stamp which has brought a wealth of praise from philatelists and others scattered all around the world.

One group of Canadian philatelists was in fact so impressed with the portrait that it sent a £25 cheque to some friends in Australia to buy Djungarai some tobacco. But the bearded Aborigine with his head looking skywards cannot be found. He has gone "walk-about"—wandering around the desert with his friends.

The background to this story of the stamp is typically Australian. Two years ago a well-known Australian magazine editor and his photographer went to the desert country around the centre to take pictures of the Wailbri tribe,

members of a proud but dying race.

They were well received by the tribe and were soon talking to Djungarai, taking his photograph and generally making him happy. And of the dozens of fine pictures taken the one which attracted most interest, both in Australia and abroad, was the portrait of Djungarai looking upwards to the heavens.



Soon dies were cut for a stamp. First it was an 8½d. stamp. Later, when the postal rates were changed and use of the 8½d. stamp declined, the head was changed to the 2s. 6d. issue.

Djungarai's portrait has gone round the world, focusing interest on its most primitive people. But Djungarai cannot be found.

But some time soon, when the monsoon season passes, Djungarai will come back home to his tribe; and then he will find some surprises and gifts awaiting him.

KATE KENNEDY RIDES AGAIN

The students of St. Andrews University will carry out their traditional Kate Kennedy celebrations on Saturday, with a "beardless bejant" (first-year man student) playing the part of the fair lady.

She is said to have been the niece of Bishop James Kennedy, who in 1450 founded the College of St. Salvator, and she is also said to have been so beautiful that the students for 500 years have kept her memory alive. Other historians, less romantically minded, say that Kate, or Katharine, was merely a bell presented by the bishop.

Students prefer the "fair lady" theory, and cling to their colourful pageant. "Kate" rides in a garlanded coach.

STOPPED THE SHOW

A circus elephant recently stopped the Gothenburg-Stockholm night express by putting on the emergency brake with its trunk while travelling in the luggage van.

Excusing the animal's playfulness, his keeper said: "He plays a piano in the circus and must have been trying to practise."

NEW ZEALANDERS GET THE NEEDLE

Sharp-eyed citizens of Napier, New Zealand, hearing that a London nurse found a needle in a haystack in 22 minutes, have cabled a challenge to London, claiming that they could find one more quickly.

The challenge has been accepted, and the actual needle used in the competition near St. Paul's Cathedral has been sent by air mail to New Zealand, together with an outline of the rules of the hunt.

It will be interesting to learn whether New Zealanders have sharper eyes than Londoners.

FRUGAL MILLIONAIRE

Mrs. Hetty Sylvia Howland Green Wilks, of New York, had lived frugally all her life, as had her mother before her; but after her death, at the age of 80, it was found that she had left about 95 million dollars!

Her will was found in a tin box with four cakes of soap.

Some 50,000 dollars goes to the American Girl Scouts, and most of the remainder to 63 religious, educational, and charitable institutions.

CRYING FOR THE MOON

Curious claim

A California society of science fiction fans has filed a claim with the United Nations for an area of the Moon—the area some 73 miles long and 30 wide, bounded by the Sabine, Ritter, Manners, and Arago craters.

The claimants have the imposing title of The Elves', Gnomes', and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder, and Marching Society; but despite the name they are primarily university students, instructors, writers, and others interested in science fiction.

Laying claim to land 238,000 miles away is certainly unusual; but at least one rocket expert has estimated that, given enough money for research and construction work, men will be able to set foot on the Moon within the next ten years.

SOONER OR LATER

"This is a problem that's got to be faced," says the Little Men's chairman, geologist Lester Cole. "Sooner or later somebody is going to the Moon. When they do, the question of who owns it will be a serious one."

The problem of travel in outer space has also been considered by Oscar Schachter, deputy director of the general legal division of the United Nations. He thinks that special rules would have to be established by the U.N.—probably the present international laws governing travel on the high seas would be extended to govern space-ship excursions.

So far the United Nations have not replied to the Little Men's claim, which incidentally is not the first to be made. In 1949 a Chicago man filed a claim for possession of the whole of outer space!

OBSTACLE RACE FOR CANOES

Canoe enthusiasts from all over Britain will be taking part in a rally this weekend at Bickleigh, near Tiverton, Devon.

One of the attractions will be a canoe slalom, a race similar to a ski slalom. Each entrant makes a 200-yard run, gaining or losing points for the skill and speed in negotiating obstacles such as rapids, gates, boulders, and half-submerged trees.

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THEIR EXCELLENCIES ARE PRIVILEGED

By the CN Diplomatic Correspondent

BRITAIN and the self-governing Commonwealth countries have agreed that their High Commissioners shall have the rank and status of Ambassadors. The new arrangement will apply, for example, to Australia's High Commissioner in London, and to Britain's High Commissioner in Canberra.

What rights and privileges does the title of "His Excellency, the Ambassador" give a nation's representative abroad?

Down the centuries customs, treaties, and the growth of international law have made the Ambassador a most carefully safeguarded and favoured person.

In his embassy in a foreign land he is regarded as being at home in his own country. Neither the police nor anybody else may demand entrance on any pretext whatsoever. All his papers and documents are inviolate, and nobody may demand to see them.

He cannot be arrested and prosecuted on any charge of breaking the law—unless he wishes to forego this diplomatic immunity.

These rights, which to an extent place him beyond the law, are also granted to his wife and children, his officials and servants.

ANGRY TSAR

So far as Britain is concerned the history of this particular immunity for Ambassadors goes back nearly 250 years.

It happened when the Ambassador of Russia was visiting Queen Anne that his coach was upset by an excited London mob, and his servants manhandled. The Tsar was furious. There was nearly an "international incident."

Shocked at what might easily arise out of careless treatment towards the representative of another country, Queen Anne's Government passed the first Diplomatic Privileges Act. That was in 1708, and it is still in force—with many additions made from time to time.

The decrees under the Act set out lists of people attached to embassies who are to have diplomatic immunity. The sheriffs of London and Middlesex have charge of the lists.

FREEDOM FROM ARREST

As servants are included, and staffs generally, over a thousand people in London have this special privilege.

There has been a feeling in recent years that some of the privileges have been extended over too many people. At one time, for instance, British persons on the staff of a foreign Ambassador in London did not have to pay income tax. This right, however, has been restricted.

Russia will not grant diplomatic immunity to servants, though other countries do, because they feel that they should be free from the prospects of arrest. An Ambassador's chauffeur, for instance, might be involved in a car accident while driving dangerously. If the police were to arrest him immediately it might cause difficulty or trouble for the Ambassador or even international ill-feeling.

This does not mean, however, that the law can be broken with impunity. The Ambassador con-

cerned would merely have to be approached first on the matter, and in practice diplomatic immunity for the dangerous driver—or anyone else who had broken the law—would be removed.

After all, if an Ambassador's actions do not meet with approval, a declaration sent to his own country that he is non persona grata would ensure his recall.

So even Ambassadors, privileged though they and their embassies are, do not regard themselves as above the law.

There is the famous story of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, who later became the Christian President of the first Chinese Republic. He was kidnapped in London by his Chinese enemies and locked up in their embassy. The Ambassador meant to smuggle him on a ship bound for China, there to face a charge of conspiring against the Manchu dynasty.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, however, wrapped a message appealing for help round a piece of coal and threw it out of the window. The message was found and taken to the British Foreign Office. The Foreign Minister requested the Chinese Ambassador to call and see him. A sharp talk on how Britain felt about kidnapping brought about the swift release of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.

Pedal polo



A tussle for the ball during a bicycle polo match at Croydon. The game is becoming very popular, and has its own Association and League.

EXTRA BOB A JOB

This week the Boy Scouts are concentrating on what has become one of their most popular annual features, Bob-a-Job Week. But this year, because of the serious state of Scout Headquarters finances, all members of the movement are asked to redouble their efforts. So if you have anything for these willing workers to do, please remember that they are out to earn "an extra bob for an extra job."



By the CN Press Gallery Correspondent

UNDER its own rules the House of Commons has a working day of eight hours—from 2.30 to 10.30 p.m. on four days a week—Monday to Thursday. Friday is a fixed "short" day of 5½ hours, and starts at 11.0 a.m. to allow M.P.s to reach remote constituencies for weekends. So the total for the week is 37½ hours.

But by various devices the Commons can extend its working hours, and during the period from King George's death to the Easter recess this minimum was more the exception than the rule. In one recent week M.P.s put in nearly 58 working hours—on the floor of the House itself.

An M.P. may also attend one of the standing committees held in the mornings, and in addition may have his own professional work to do, apart from correspondence and meeting constituents.

YET there are always thousands more trying to be M.P.s than there is room in the Commons. This eagerness is illustrated in a story told by Lord Meston to the Lords the other day.

A 21-year-old candidate was once addressing a hostile eve-of-the-poll meeting when a wag, noting his youth, shouted: "Does your mother know you're out?" He replied swiftly: "Yes—and tomorrow she'll know I'm in!"

THERE is always something to be learned in Parliamentary replies. One tells us what a "bobby calf" is—a calf that is not suitable for further feeding on the farm.

And then we find out just what "our daily bread" means—consumption of six million tons of wheat a year. About 62 per cent of the flour made from this goes into bread. The rest is for biscuits, cakes, and other flour-using foods.

But all this has nothing to do with a heart-cry from one M.P.: "Does the hon. gentleman realise that soon, by the way we are going on, we shall all be eating dog biscuits?"

MR. BUTLER, Chancellor of the Exchequer and architect of the 1944 Education Act, is in quite a bad way according to an M.P., who said this of him in a debate on the effects of the Budget on education:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer tried to tell us that he was not committing patricide, but if he is not committing patricide he is guilty of wilful neglect of his growing child.

MORE mixed metaphors: I will try to pour oil on troubled waters (said an M.P.), but first I should like to thank the Minister for his extreme courtesy in going to the trouble to burn the midnight oil.

MANNERS Makyth Minister: I see the hon. gentleman preparing to stand up (said a Minister), but if he will let me finish it might save his legs.

News From Everywhere

CLOCKS ON, PLEASE

British Summer Time begins officially at 2 a.m. on Sunday, April 20, so do not forget to advance your clocks and watches one hour on Saturday night.

Under the Colombo Plan to aid the countries of south-east Asia £250,000 has been made immediately available by New Zealand for irrigation projects in Pakistan.

A collection of works of art acquired by the London County Council is being exhibited at the Tudor Barn, Well Hall Road, Eltham, until April 20. Admission is free. The collection will afterwards be loaned to London schools.

THE LAST TRAM

Buses will replace the last of London's trams by July 6 instead of October.

A magnificent carved wooden panel which was once in the 14th-century banqueting hall of Malvern Priory has been found fitted as part of the counter in a Malvern Wells shop.

The quays at Cherbourg, demolished by the Germans in 1944, have been rebuilt, and Transatlantic lines have resumed docking; but more dredging will be required before the Queen Elizabeth, 83,673 tons, ties up at the quays for the first time next month.

An Elizabethan porridge bowl and spoon were found during repairs to a cottage wall at Combsford, Suffolk.

EXTRA FIVER

In addition to the £25 allowance for foreign travel, riders of motorcycles and mechanically-propelled bicycles will be allowed to take £5 for expenses.

Sarawak is to replace her currency with Malayan currency.

The apprentice-master scheme for training boys for the building trade has ended in Wales after six years. During that time 1300 boys built 843 houses and six shops.

The Queen will take the salute at a march past of Queen's Scouts and holders of Scout gallantry awards at Windsor Castle on Sunday, April 27.

MAKING IT EASIER

Simplified arrangements for collective passports used by young people travelling in Britain, Belgium, France, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands are now in force, avoiding the need for visas for all group travellers under 18.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake has become the first man in the British Commonwealth to take over the post of Premier from his parent.

American Servicemen in Britain have given 2030 pints of blood for transfusion in British hospitals.

Five hundred zoological specimens, mostly snakes and lizards from the frontier territory between Kenya and Ethiopia, have recently been added to the National History Museum, South Kensington.

An identity disc found at Spalding, Lincolnshire, is believed to have been worn by a slave 2000 years ago.

BATTLE HONOURS

The 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment will receive new colours from their Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester, on April 26. On the following day there will be a service in Gloucester Cathedral in thanksgiving for the return of the battalion from Korea.

Two young Rhodesians, Mr. Sydney Sawyer and Mr. J. H. Wilson, will leave Salisbury by air early in June for a six-week tour of Britain under the auspices of the Princess Elizabeth Birthday Fund. They were chosen from 80 applicants.

EXPENSIVE BEETLES

Beetles that attack timber in buildings are costing this country £20,000,000 a year.

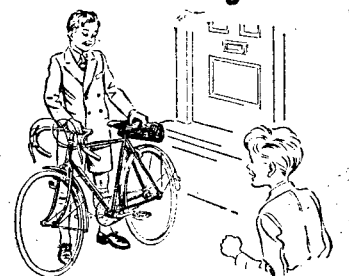
The premier prize of £250 at the Bisley meeting of the National Rifle Association is being continued by the Queen, and will be known as the Queen's Prize instead of the King's Prize. The award has been given by the reigning sovereign since 1860.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The London busmen on a good will tour in America were asked by a school pupil to "say something in English."

A plaque commemorating G. K. Chesterton has been put up at 11 Warwick Gardens, Kensington, where he spent many of his early years.

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The Children's Newspaper, April 19, 1952

BOY'S FOUR YEARS OF TRAGEDY

Viennese police have just learned the sad life story of a deaf and dumb boy they had found wandering near the Yugoslav border.

They gave him paper and pencil and he drew three figures, two tall and one short, and showed by signs that they were his parents and himself. Invited to carry on, the lad drew a soldier brandishing a pistol, and indicated its tragic significance by drawing two grave-stones in the form of crosses.

Next, he was shown pictures of 12 girls, each slightly taller than the last, to represent years. He pointed to the eighth and then to the gravestones, showing he was eight when his parents were killed. He then pointed to the 12th to indicate that he was now 12.

Shown more pictures, the boy was able to tell the police that he had been born in Hungary and that he had lived and worked on farms in that country; that he had escaped and made his way through Yugoslavia to Austria. Such are the innocent victims of war.

ONE UP AND ONE DOWN!

Two important engineering projects are shortly to be started in the Isle of Wight; one will result in a steel mast 750 feet high, the other in a borehole 8000 feet deep.

The steel mast will be for the new BBC television station in the centre of the island, to provide a TV service which will cover the greater part of Southern England outside the range of the transmitter at Alexandra Palace.

The 8000-foot hole will be part of the continual search to find crude oil in Britain. Before selecting the actual site for the drilling, the Anglo-Iranian Company carried out an extensive survey which gave prospectors sufficient information to decide on the most suitable spot for drilling.

GOOD WORK IN HONG KONG

Although missionaries are now excluded from China, the Bible Society is still carrying on its good work from Hong Kong. Scriptures are provided in Chinese and many other tongues for the seamen and river-boat people who sail daily in and out of the harbour.

The society has also brought consolation to the many unfortunate victims of China's upheaval who are now refugees in Hong Kong. In one large camp there are many blind people, mostly ex-soldiers of the Nationalist armies who lost their sight in battle; they are taught to read Chinese Braille, their text-book being the Bible.

Christians in China know that their brothers in the free world have not forgotten them.

IRON FROM THE LAKE

Every 24 hours about 5000 truckloads of clay are being sucked up and removed from Steep Rock Lake, near Atikokan, Ontario.

About a mile square, this lake used to be 150 to 200 feet deep, but most of the water has been drained into another lake a mile distant.

The purpose of the removal of the clay, now nearing completion, is to lay bare what is estimated to be one of the richest iron ore deposits on the North American continent.

NEVER WASTED

When paper has served its initial purpose—be it in the form of newspaper, books, packing, or cardboard to name but a few—it can be repulped and remade for use by the mills.

This repeat performance can go on indefinitely—but only if paper is saved. Your local authority will collect it, thus helping to keep the rates down, and save the country dollars at the same time.



Family outing

These twin-rotor helicopters of the United States Navy are taking-off in formation from Philadelphia Airport.

SCHOOL TV AND TELEPHONES

Our schoolboys are becoming more and more ingenious. The lads of Hallcroft Technical School, Ilkeston, have made a television transmitter as well as TV receiving sets, and all out of spare R.A.F. and Army equipment which they bought cheaply.

Schoolboy "engineers" are to erect an internal telephone network to cover the seven acres of buildings of the Portway Secondary Boys' School at Bristol. The school has 40 classrooms on a rural site half-a-mile round, and the telephone system will be a great boon to the headmaster.

STAMP NEWS

A SET of stamps for the Rhodes Centenary Celebrations next year is now being prepared.

THE 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Emil Holub, the explorer, is commemorated by two new Czechoslovakian stamps.

DESIGNS for the first stamps of the Queen's reign will be chosen from a competition being held by the Council of Industrial Design.

FOUR new stamps to be issued next week will mark the centenary of the first issues in Barbados.

SOLD for £84—an envelope bearing nine 1d. stamps cut in half in 1890 when the Falkland Islands postmaster ran short of 1d. stamps.

SAFETY FIRST AT HARWELL

A strip of film no bigger than a postage stamp, and enclosed in lead, was worn by the Duke of Edinburgh recently when he paid his first visit to Harwell atomic research station in Berkshire. The purpose of the tiny film was to ensure afterwards that he had not been exposed to harmful radiation.

The film was developed before he left, and showed that he had suffered no ill-effects.

TIMELY WARNING

The sources of floods from the River Thames have continually to be watched. Sluice-gates on the great river can then be opened at the earliest possible moment.

It is of the greatest help against flooding to have warning of rising waters in the many tributaries which flow into the Thames, so 26 new gauging stations are to be constructed on their banks, and work has been started on the first six.

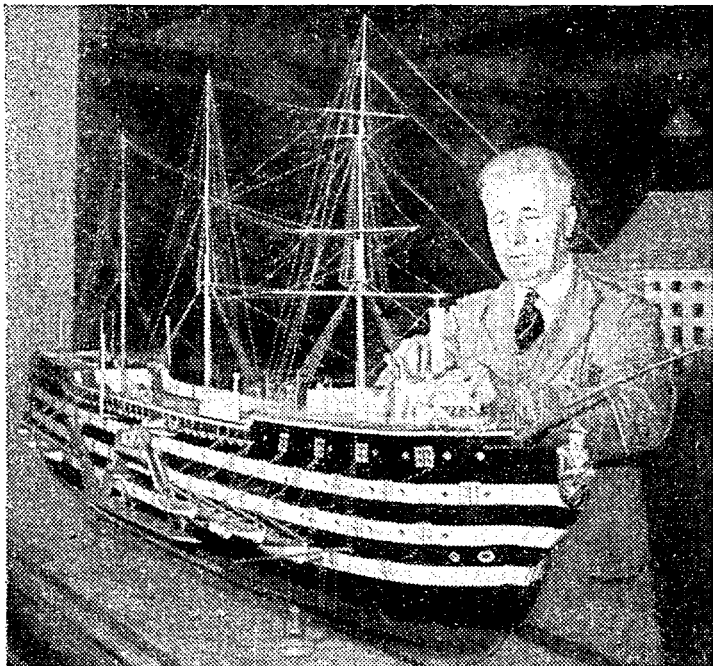
From the regular observation of these instruments better warning of flood danger than previously will be available. Hitherto, there have been only two gauging stations on the Thames—one near Teddington, and the other at Little Wittenham, near Wallingford.

FIRST STEPS TO EVEREST

The 13 members of the Swiss expedition which is to attempt to climb Mount Everest have gone to their base camp; it is on Khumbu glacier, south-west of the mountain.

The climbers' equipment was taken from Katmandu, 180 miles away, by 150 coolies, each porter carrying a 60-lbs. load. Every load was carefully checked for even weight on a spring balance before the party started, and every box was stamped with a Swiss cross and a coil of rope.

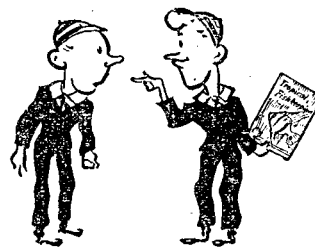
The stores include concentrated foods, scientific apparatus, first-aid supplies, alpenstocks, and ice axes.



Prized possession

This scale model of H.M.S. Worcester has been presented by the London County Council to the Thames Nautical Training College, which has its headquarters on-board the original of the model, now moored off Greenhithe, Kent.

'Bet you don't know what BETTA SPLENDENS is?'



Do you? If you have a copy of Spratt's "Tropical Fishkeeping," you'll know all about BETTA SPLENDENS—the Siamese Fighting Fish. There's everything, in fact, that you need to know about tropical fish, their varieties, care and management. Sixty-eight pages and 4 magnificent Colour Plates. Price 1/6 from Spratt's Stockists (or, if any difficulty, 1/8 post free from address below.)

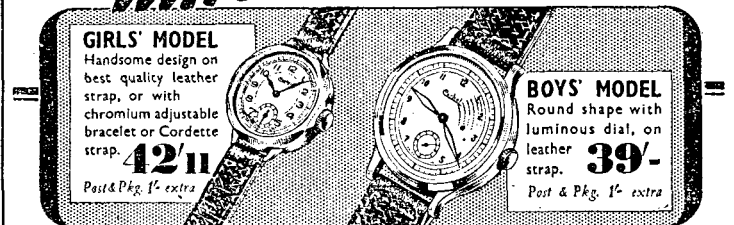
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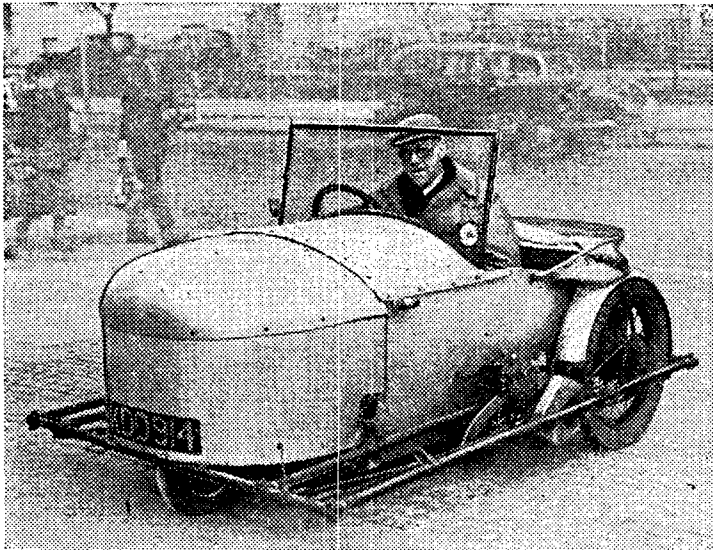
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Transport problem solved

Tired of waiting for a new car, Mr. McAlldowe, a Cheltenham business man, built his own at a cost of £20. It has a motor-cycle engine, and the chassis, constructed of tubes clamped together, can be dismantled in 20 minutes.

SWEET SINGER OF METHODISM

A Garden of Rest was recently dedicated to Charles Wesley, the famous hymn-writer. It is close to the site of his last resting-place in Marylebone Old Cemetery.

Charles Wesley lived with his family in Marylebone for the last 17 years of his life and was a familiar figure in the village, as it then was.

He often used to ride on an old grey pony to and from his famous brother's chapel at Moor-

fields; and passers-by who saw this dreamy-looking, white-haired old clergyman on his journeys could little guess that he was at that very moment composing hymns which would lift up men's hearts for generations after his death.

Altogether he wrote about 6000 hymns, and some of them were inspired in curious little ways. For instance, he was sitting at his desk one day when a bird flew in at his window. It had been pursued by a hawk, which was afraid to follow into the room, and disappeared. Charles Wesley then wrote the undying words:

*Jesu, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly . . .*

It was with Charles Wesley that the name Methodist started, and it began in a way unconnected with religion. While he was a student at Oxford he drew some other students' attention to "the method of study prescribed by the statutes of the university," and the idle fellows laughed and nicknamed him "methodist."

The Garden of Rest will be an oasis of quiet to which people can withdraw, there to meditate on the eternal truths of which Charles Wesley wrote.

WILL-O'-THE-WISP ON FIRE

Crowds of people went recently to watch a 250-foot-high flame which for some days had been shooting up from the biggest methane wells in Europe, at Cremona in Italy.

To their astonishment the flame suddenly went out, then shot up again. It is thought that a slight underground movement of the earth cut off the supply of gas for a few moments.

Engineers sank shafts to pour chemical mud into the burning well; and Mr. Myron Kinley of Texas, who specialises in putting out fires at oil and gas wells, flew to the scene from America.

Methane is also called marsh gas and fire damp. It causes the eerie will-o'-the-wisp sometimes seen in marshes.

In the Air

By the C N Flying Correspondent

Flying ants

A SMALL colony of African ants recently exchanged their native soil for the glamour of Hollywood and fame as film stars.

The latest Tarzan film shows a close-up of ants crawling over the jungleman's hands. Hollywood ants were unconvincingly small, so the film studio hurriedly sent a request to Nairobi for a box of "real ants" to be delivered by air.

They duly arrived, accompanied by a bill for £12—which makes them the world's most expensive ants!

Isle of Wight ferry

AN air ferry for cars, motor-cycles, and bicycles is proposed between Eastleigh, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight.

It will be flown by the twin-engined Bristol Freighter aircraft of Silver City Airways, each of which can carry two cars and a number of motor-cycles and bicycles, as well as 12 passengers in a separate cabin in the rear. The crossing will take ten minutes, and the service is expected to open in a few weeks' time.

New flying-boats

BRITISH water-based aircraft of the future will include jet-bombers capable of flying at the speed of sound; diesel-propjet flying-boats able to remain airborne for 35 hours, and transports weighing over 250 tons.

In these new craft the familiar "step-up," designed to lift the boat free of the water on take-off, will disappear, as it mars streamlining. Instead, according to Mr. Henry Knowler, chief designer at Saunders-Roe, the same effect will be given by retractable surfaces.

Two other developments are retractable hydrofoils—underwater aerofoils which lift the hull above the surface—and retractable ski-type floats for very high-speed fighters.

Voice from above

BEFORE new rockets are fired on the Florida Flight Test Range, the U.S.A.F. sends up Dakotas to warn shipping. These machines have been named Polly Planes because they talk from the air like huge parrots!

For several hours prior to rocket launching, Superfortresses patrol the area, picking up radar echoes of ships approaching the range, and relaying their position by radio back to the Range Clearance Officer. Ships near the danger zone are then warned off by the Polly Planes, which swoop low over the ships and warn the skippers through powerful loud-speakers in the rear fuselage.

14,000-mile race

THE R.A.F. may take part in a 14,000-mile race from England to New Zealand next year. The plane used would probably be an English Electric Canberra, a twin-jet bomber. The U.S. Air Force is also likely to compete.

Another Nature article by THE HUT MAN discussing . . .

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

(4) Frogs and Toads

WHAT is the difference between a Frog and a Toad?

Here again we have two creatures so well known that a mistake in identity would seem to be hardly possible. Yet in earlier talks we have found that some birds and animals with very familiar names can be puzzling when the creatures themselves are found out-of-doors.

If we ask a friend to describe the difference between a frog and a toad, we shall find that, though he *thinks* he knows, he will have some difficulty in expressing the difference in words.

This is because he has failed to observe carefully. He may have looked at frogs and toads many times, but he has "looked without seeing," which is not nearly so unusual as it sounds. So let us ask, once again, How can we identify a Frog from a Toad?

Frogs and toads, as we would imagine from their similarity, are very closely related. They belong to the class which is called

usual mode of travel is a slow, laboured-looking crawl.

Only, in its eyes can the toad compete with the frog in beauty; for its eyes are wonderful—bright, good-humoured, and intelligent.

THE lives of frogs and toads start as dot-like eggs, surrounded by a protective jelly, laid at the bottom of the pond. In this nursery duty the female toad shows greater care than her more beautiful cousin. Frogs will accept the first water they find on emerging from winter sleep, even flood-water in a field-side ditch, and the eggs often perish when this dries up. Toads have a true homing instinct, and invariably return to spawn in the pond of their own birth.

The eggs of the frog are laid in shapeless masses of jelly which swell with the water and rise to the surface, where they float in the way so familiar to all of us. Toads, on the other hand, lay their eggs in long ropes of jelly, each rope containing a double row of



The Common Frog and Toad

Batrachia, a name that comes from the Greek word for a frog, and which is comprised of creatures which go through an underwater, fish-like stage of life before becoming able to breathe air and live on dry land.

They are also called *amphibians*, a name which really means "two forms of life."

ALTHOUGH they are cousins, as it were, frogs and toads are sufficiently different in appearance to make correct identification a simple matter, and simple, too, during each stage of their curious, interesting lives. Let us take the final, adult stage first.

In general shape, frogs and toads are similar. The frog, however, is a rather handsome creature with a soft, moist, brightly-coloured skin, while the poor old toad's is dull-coloured, dry, and covered with what look very like warts.

The frog has a shapely, pointed, narrow head, while the toad's is broad, rounded, and flat; and the legs of the frog are considerably longer. In its attitude the frog is alert, sitting more upright and travelling in a series of magnificent leaps.

The more lowly toad crouches close to the ground, where it is often mistaken for a piece of dry turf, and although it can vault quite respectably when startled its

eggs. These ropes being twined round submerged water plants, the eggs remain safely at the bottom of the pond.

When the eggs hatch, and the tadpoles are able to swim freely in search of food, it is still a simple matter to identify those of the toad from those of the frogs. Toad tadpoles are little black creatures, while those of the frog are a dull, golden-brown in colour.

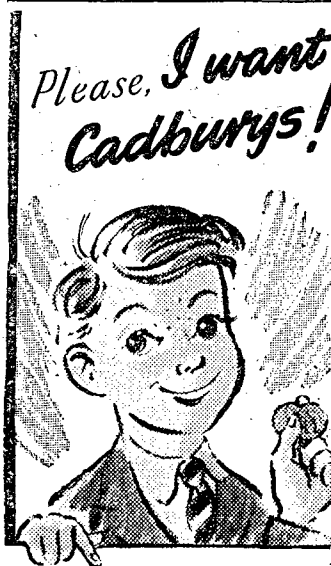
If we go out tadpole-hunting, however, we will seldom find those of frogs and toads inhabiting the same pond, though frogs will often frequent a little sheltered, back-water, screened from the toads of the main pond by a belt of reeds or other water plants.

Is this a sign that frogs are more aristocratic than toads—more "select," even in the choice of nursery? It is pleasant to play with such ideas.

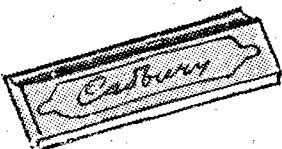
SUN COOKING

Indian inventors have produced an open-air cooker which cooks by the heat of the sun.

The contrivance is a kind of inverted metal bowl which is extra sensitive to heat, and concentrates the sun's rays on the cooking utensil hanging above it. One of the new cookers was recently presented to Prime Minister Nehru, and it is soon to be produced on a large scale in India.



He wants Cadburys Milk Chocolate, and he's right. It's the milk chocolate with the lovely creamy taste. And Cadburys make bars at the price a boy can pay. No wonder people are always saying 'Please, I want Cadburys!'



CALIFORNIA—Golden State of the Far West

SHEILA GODFREY, the young English girl who described for the CN her bus journey across the United States, here gives some further impressions of California.

My travels were due to end at Santa Cruz, a little seaside town some 80 miles south of San Francisco, but before finally relinquishing my bus ticket I was able to see a little more of California.

The diversity and magnitude of the Golden State are enthralling—and who can fail to love a place where there are three strawberry crops a year?

Within a few hours' drive you can be ski-ing on snow-covered mountains, relaxing on the sea-shore, or far from civilisation in the heart of virgin forest—and the beauty of Californian forests has to be seen to be believed.

The giant redwood trees rise 200 feet or more above the ground, with gently-tapering trunks and delicate, feathery foliage. Some of them measure 15 or 20 feet across, and in several cases they have been hollowed out at the base so that cars can drive right through them.

The Sequoias, cousin to the redwood and even taller, are believed to be the oldest living things on earth. Naturalists say that some of them are about 4000 years old.

Most of my explorations have been along the coastal areas, and here the climate is unbelievably lovely.

Though bitter snowstorms in the winter frequently isolate mountain communities (an express train was snowed up for four days not long ago) along the coastline roses bloom at Christmas and the skies are deep blue, with brilliant sun-

shine. And in the summer, when the valley temperatures rise to 110 degrees and more, the coast is pleasantly cooled by the Pacific Ocean.

Even after the occasional heavy rains in the winter, however, the land never looks as green as in England; rather it is a motley of greenish browns and yellows.

Oranges and lemons grow unheeded in the gardens, and a little way inland there are miles of vineyards, and fruit trees of all description for what is probably the biggest canning and drying industry in the world.

It is small wonder that thousands of people are pouring into the State each month to make their homes here; the young ones to a land of opportunity, the older folks to retire. They come from every State in the union and from every free country in the world.

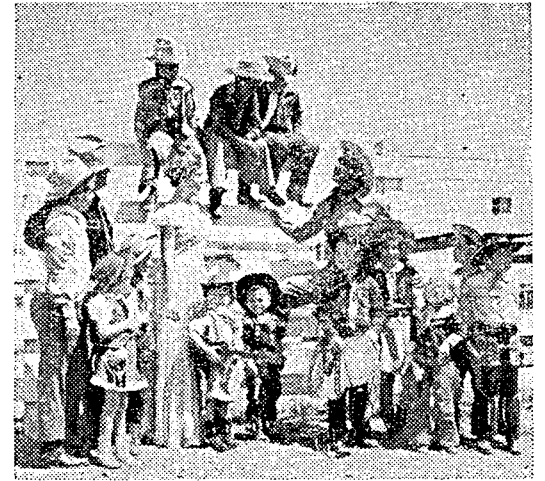
Between 1940 and 1950 the population increased by 53 per cent. But even now it is only about 11 million, and that in an area three times the size of the United Kingdom.

THE California boast is "We know how to live," and certainly the styles of architecture and of dress—though they often pay little heed to tradition—are ideally suited to the climatic conditions.

Most modern houses are single-storey "ranch style," with enormous picture windows, sometimes occupying an entire wall. The front door opens directly into the living room, from which leads



Ski-ing on the snow-covered mountain slopes of California



Boys and girls in cowboy costume for Pioneers' Day

the kitchen, with a dining alcove. Doors between the rooms, except for the bedrooms, are usually dispensed with.

Outside there is nearly always a barbecue, or brick oven, and many families eat out of doors at least once or twice a week in summer. Most homes are of wood, and many are built by the families themselves, in their spare time.

The older type of house is more like that seen in the east of the United States, with two or three storeys and steps up to the large front porch. It is an amazing sight to see one of these houses being moved complete, as it stands, from one street to another.

Labour-saving appliances are encouraged as part of the "We know how to live" campaign.

An English war bride of average means, from Southport, in Lancashire, whom I met shortly after my arrival in Santa Cruz, has in her kitchen an electric garbage disposal unit, dishwasher, double-size cooker, ironer, and large refrigerator, as well as such smaller items as a mixer, toaster, and so on. Outside she had a deep-freeze and a washing machine that also rinses and part-dries the clothes!

PERHAPS because comparatively few of the inhabitants are from families which originated in California—though to be a Native Son (or Daughter) of the Golden West is a source of great satisfaction—social life in a town like Santa Cruz revolves mainly round innumerable clubs and organisations, many of them bearing names which to a European sound intensely amusing.

There are the Lions and the Elks and the Moose; the Redmen and the Degree of Pocahontas; the Daughters of the Nile; the Pythian Sisters; the Ladies of the Orient, and so on. Each has its secret ritual and initiation ceremonies, and a complicated hierarchy.

Pot-luck suppers, at which everyone contributes a dish to the common table, and "showers," to which every guest brings a gift for the new baby, bride, or whoever is being fêted, are important affairs in the social routine.

Pioneers' or Settlers' Days are great fun for everybody, particularly the youngsters, for whom there are usually costume prizes. The costumes, of course, are jeans and fancy shirts, wide hats, and cowboy boots.

Rodeo and folk dancing are often the most popular part of the programme, which consists of dances adapted from almost every country in the world, as well as American square dances, their complicated steps directed by experienced "callers."

SANTA CRUZ is an essentially friendly community. Originally one of the series of Spanish missions, each one day's journey apart, set up during the 18th and 19th centuries, it now caters almost exclusively for holiday-makers.

And how it does cater for them! Should a visitor feel queasy on a deep-sea fishing trip, a speedboat and taxi will be called by radio to rush him back to his hotel!

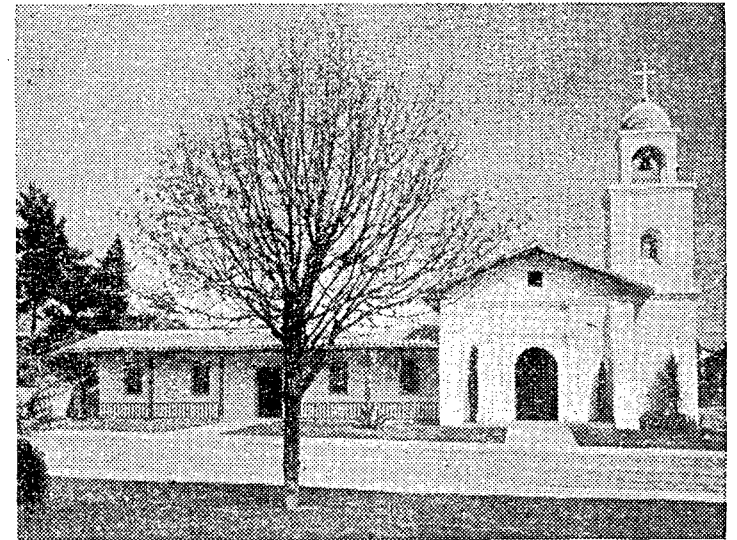
But permanent residents are also welcomed with open arms. I had been here only a few days when a

representative arrived from the "Who's New" club, bringing an invitation to attend their functions, and a book of introduction to various establishments in the town, promising free dishes, a hair-do, cinema tickets, sample plants, confectionery, and a host of other items as their greeting to a newcomer.

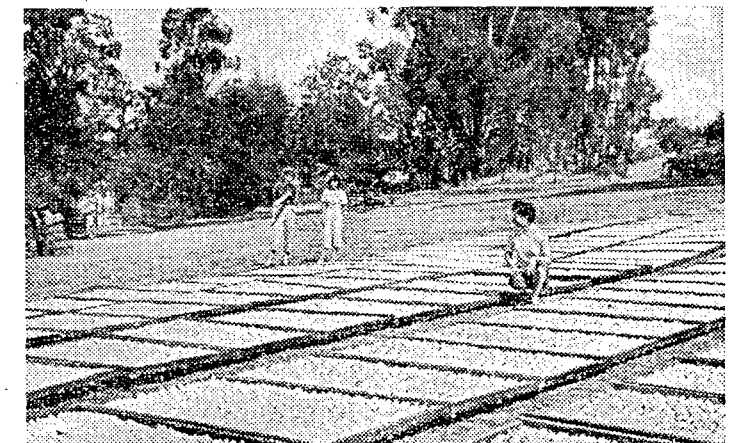
EVEN after six months away from home, however, life in the United States continues to be surprising.

The other day I met a man with a strange surname and an almost unintelligible accent, whom I took to be Russian, or, perhaps, from one of the Balkan countries. But he assured me differently.

"I am English," he exclaimed with great pride. "I var born in ze Whitechapel Road!"



The historic mission at Santa Cruz, founded by the Spaniards



Pears drying in the sun on one of the vast fruit farms in California



Mighty Californian redwoods, their delicate foliage forming a strange contrast with the huge trunks of the trees

OUTERMOST PLANET OF SOLAR SYSTEM

By the C N Astronomer

IN those remote and frigid regions where the strange system of Neptune and his two moons, Triton and Nereid, revolve and the Sun appears only as a very bright star, there is another still more remote world, Pluto. Its strange features make it unique among the planets of the Solar System.

Pluto is now high in the southern sky of an evening. Owing to its faintness (under 14th magnitude) it cannot be seen without a powerful telescope, yet Pluto's position may be easily found. It is in the great constellation of Leo, the Lion, which covers a large area almost midway between the horizon and overhead within an hour of 9 p.m.

The accompanying star-map shows the fore part of this constellation, including its bright first-magnitude star,



Regulus, which is at the heart of this imaginary Lion. This very distinctive group of stars covered by the map shows what is popularly known as The Sickle.

They will be readily recognised, together with the present position of Pluto, indicated by a cross. Pluto, though invisible, is therefore a little way below the star Epsilon, which is at the point of this imaginary Sickle.

As observed from the Earth, this position of Pluto is not far from that of Neptune, which is in the adjoining constellation of Virgo, the Virgin, as described in the C N for March 22.

It is this apparent proximity of Pluto to Neptune which led to its discovery in 1930, for in that year Pluto was even nearer to Neptune.

This approach of what was then an unknown world had been proceeding for several years. It had so affected the motion of Neptune as to give rise to a general belief among astronomers that there must be a great world beyond the planet, as the position of Uranus would not account for the perturbations of Neptune.

Then Percival Lowell's mathematical calculations led him to indicate where the unknown world was likely to be found. Near to that region it was found by Dr. V. M. Slipher on March 13, 1939.

It was a great achievement, similar to that of Adams and Leverrier in 1846, when they discovered Neptune as the result of his gravitational pull on Uranus, even though the planets were over 1000 million miles apart. But the result was very different. Instead of a great world, only a very small one was found, yet it was actually pulling Neptune out of place.

It was astonishing that a little world only about half the diameter of the Earth could do so, and from a distance of over 700 million miles.

HEAVIEST PLANET

The problem has remained one of the most attractive in astronomy, and an almost unique one in physics, because it suggests that Pluto possesses considerably greater weight than any other planet.

Hitherto the Earth has been regarded as the most massive or weighty of the planets, in proportion to its size, every average cubic foot of our world being greater in weight than that of any other world, or even the Sun itself. This weight or mass depends upon the average density of its materials.

Pluto's weight and density is, however, some eight or nine times greater than the Earth's, which indicates that the material composing Pluto must be composed of extraordinarily heavy elements. Anything on Pluto would weigh far more than the same object would on Earth. So are there elements elsewhere much heavier than any we know of on Earth?

Pluto, which appears to have entered the Solar System from outer space, is at present 3255 million miles distant.

It was so named by an 11-year-old Oxford girl, Venetia Burney—not a very appropriate name, perhaps, as Pluto was the mythical god of fire, whereas the planet Pluto is the most frigid of all the Solar System!

G. F. M.

Tulip Time in England's Holland

Tulip time is fast approaching its peak in the fields of Lincolnshire, in England's little Holland. Between Spalding and Holbeach hundreds of acres of rich loam will become a rich carpet of shimmering hues, stretching away to the horizon.

In the wake of daffodil and narcissus the tulip will be everywhere, and on Sundays a slow crocodile of cars will weave its way through the narrow Fenland roads, loaded with people intent on seeing one of the most glorious sights of spring.

Behind this array of flowers is a great industry which keeps about 5000 people busy for most of the year. To the growers this pageant of loveliness is just another crop.

FESTIVAL QUEEN

This explains why millions of blooms are used for advertising display during the season. Tulip time is festival time. A Tulip Queen, elected for the season, scatters millions of petals as she tours the towns and villages of her domain. Coaches, cars, lorries, completely covered in masses of tulips, crawl like monster posies through the lanes.

By the roadside gigantic banners a yard high and as long as a cricket pitch splash the names of local growers. These "banners" are made of tulip heads, hundreds of thousands of them packed tightly together, forming a brilliant showpiece.

HELICOPTER RESCUE

This story of comradeship and co-operation comes from Korea.

A United States aircraft was hit during an operation over enemy lines, and the pilot, Captain W. B. Smart, was forced to bale out—and unfortunately right into the hands of the enemy.

Seeing this, his fellow pilots wirelessed an air-rescue squadron, which responded quickly with fighter planes and a helicopter. Diving low, the fighters sent Captain Smart's captors scurrying for cover, allowing the helicopter to come down to rescue him.

ERIC GILLETT reviews a film which pays tribute to...

THOSE FEW TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH

THERE have been some films about the Battle of Britain in the past, and there may be others in years to come.

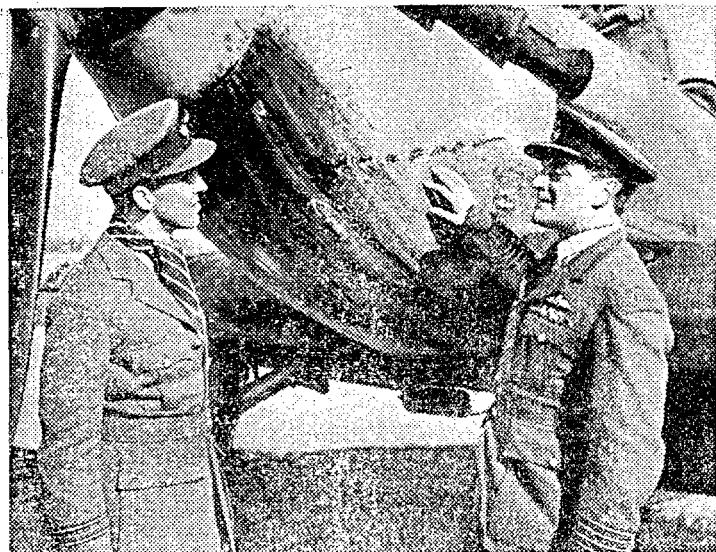
But it is not altogether easy to understand why the present time should have been chosen to make Angels One Five, which shows how the indomitable fighter pilots of Britain's finest hour lived and fought.

The producers, John Gossage and Derek Twist, and the director, George More O'Ferrall, assembled a fine cast and took every care to ensure that the technical details were correct. Some of the sequences of aerial battles are the

But when the scriptwriter tries to get on with his own story the film becomes artificial and ceases to convince.

Jack Hawkins, Michael Denison, John Gregson, Cyril Raymond, and Andrew Osborn all have acting opportunities, but Dulcie Gray and Veronica Hurst seem to be unhappy in unrewarding parts.

Although it may be thought an unequal film, Angels One Five will appeal alike to those who lived through the dangers and the glory of 1940 and to those younger folk for whom 1940 is but a golden chapter in the long history of Britain.



Michael Denison and Jack Hawkins in a scene from Angels One Five

result of magnificent camera work. The pilots off duty behave as you would expect them to behave.

But the impression made by this very sincere picture is not as great as it ought to be. It is the script and, at times, the dialogue, that do not come up to the standards the studio set itself when it embarked on this very ambitious theme.

When Angels One Five becomes a documentary, as it is for over half its length, it is a worthy tribute to The Few. There is one moment when all our reserves have been thrown into the battle that is the real thing.

STORM OVER TIBET, directed by

Andrew Marton, was unheralded by the usual blaze of publicity, but it proves to be quite a thrilling film about a mountain expedition, with some superb photography of ascents in the Himalayas.

Some of the climbing sequences are as unusual as they are exciting.

It is not the kind of film in which the acting matters very much, but Diana Douglas, Harold Dyrenfurth, Jarmila Marton, and John Dodsworth play their parts most successfully.

Empire Mosaic—5

COUREURS des BOIS
Name, meaning hunters of the woods, given to the adventurous Frenchmen who penetrated the unknown regions of Canada in search of furs over 200 years ago.

KING HENRY VII
founded the British Empire when he commissioned John Cabot, a Venetian, to search for Cathay. In May 1497 Cabot sailed west from Bristol and discovered Newfoundland.

KANTAKA CETIYA DAGOBA MIHANTALE, CEYLON
1900 years ago, by the Royal decree of King Mahadathikamahana, Mihantale, the sacred mountain, was connected to the city of Anuradhapura, eight miles distant, by carpets to prevent Buddhist pilgrims soiling their feet.

by Ridgway

AARD-VARK
DUTCH: EARTH PIG
This native of South Africa is a shy animal about the size of a small pig. Seldom seen and difficult to capture. Lives on ants, and will burrow as much as twenty feet.

BACK IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Though Mrs. Truman will cease to reside in the White House at the end of the year, she was on hand herself to show representatives of the Press over the newly-renovated mansion, the official home of America's president.

The work, which has cost 5,700,000 dollars, had been speeded up in time to welcome Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and Prince Bernhard.

Washington's "new" White House, its 150-year-old walls supported by a steel frame, remains unchanged in basic design, but contains many minor improvements, ensuring greater safety and comfort to the occupants.

The famous East Room, scene of most formal White House functions, still retains the historic portraits of George Washington and his wife. But the first president never lived in this mansion in which he had requested the architect to combine "the sumptuousness of a palace, the convenience of a house, and the agreeableness of a country seat."

It was in the East Room that Mrs. John Q. Adams, wife of the sixth president, is said to have hung the washing!

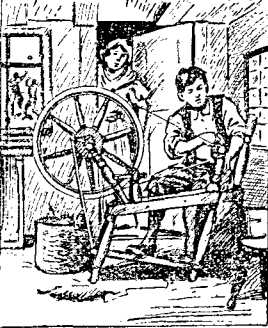
The great bronze seal of the United States, which formerly lay in the floor of the north foyer, much to the embarrassment of recent presidents who disliked the idea of people walking on the emblem, is now on a wall.

ENGLISH CAVEMEN OF TODAY

What is perhaps the only teenage caving group in the country belongs to the Under 21 Club of an industrial firm in Bridgwater, Somerset. The group is now preparing for the fine weather and another season of adventure underground.

As the title suggests, these youthful adventurers explore caves, not for scientific purposes, but for fun and excitement. Their happy hunting ground lies beneath the nearby Mendip Hills, in caverns occupied by cavemen many

To help to support his widowed mother, young Crompton was given the daily task of spinning yarn. But the jenny was inadequate and the thread constantly broke.



Pioneers 72. SAMUEL CROMPTON, inventor of the spinning mule

Later on, with a violin made by himself, Crompton worked in a theatre. But after the show, secretly and late at night, he strove to design a spinning machine.



After five years' toil, success was his! But Crompton was too poor to obtain a patent. Rather than let his invention be copied or smashed by hostile workers he gave it to the nation.

Lack of money worried Crompton throughout his life until he was granted £5,000 by the government; but his invention made far bigger fortunes for the cotton magnates.



TRAFFIC PATROLS IN TROPICAL AFRICA

British Africa is taking early precautions against motorists and others who use the highway in a selfish and reckless manner. For speed cops, we are told, will shortly take the road in two of our African Protectorates, Uganda and Nyasaland.

Along the streets in the small but rapidly-growing towns of these tropical territories will roar high-powered motor-cycles equipped with the famous American-type sirens.

Although not operating on the same scale as in modern Western countries, of course, these new traffic police are expected to do valuable work. Uganda's specially-formed Mobile Traffic Patrol Branch will have 24 men. Their machines—cars will also be used—will be capable of overtaking

any vehicle used in the Protectorate.

The patrols will wear black leggings, riding breeches, and khaki uniform jackets, with white belts and gauntlets. Their white sunhelmets will be marked simply Police. Most of them will be natives, working under European supervision. In a new school in Kampala these responsible officers are undergoing a tough training. Like their fellow officers in Britain and America, they learn to drive all types of vehicle efficiently.

FUTURE PLANS

Although these men will be quite capable of dealing with most traffic accidents and problems, it is planned to link their machines with headquarters later by radio-telephone, so that they can summon help, or be switched to vital points at a moment's notice.

The new branch will cover some 8000 miles of roads, of which some 5500 are under native administration. These roads are not the hard-wearing macadamised types which we know in Britain, nor are the outlying ones exactly suitable for speeding! In the rainy season, some are out-of-bounds for days on end.

Patrols on duty in Uganda's few towns will not have very different work from that in any British centre. But others will have fascinating "beats" in the heart of the territory, where vehicles drive

deep into forests dense with massive mahogany trees and ferns, luxuriant with orchids and other flowering plants, and gay with magnificent butterflies. Mabira Forest, only 40 miles from Kampala, and covering 120 square miles, is an example.

Nyasaland's "traffic cops" will operate on an even smaller scale. Little more than 5000 Europeans live there, and the new branch has started with two European assistant inspectors and a few Africans—two sergeants, three corporals, and six constables. They are to be mounted on British motor-cycles, and have been receiving intensive training from experts of Britain's Metropolitan Police and the West Riding Constabulary.

SCIENTISTS BACK FROM HEARD ISLAND

Complete with flowing beards and looking very fit, 14 men have returned to Australia from the bleak Antarctic outpost of Heard Island.

The party, who have spent twelve months on the island, found three glowing volcanic craters among its mountain peaks.

Their adventures included the rescue of a man from a deep crevasse, a hazardous first circuit of the island by three men, and a successful appendicitis operation in the station's recreation hut.

Dr. Otakar Rec, a Czech, performed the operation on the cook.

ESTATES FOR EDUCATION

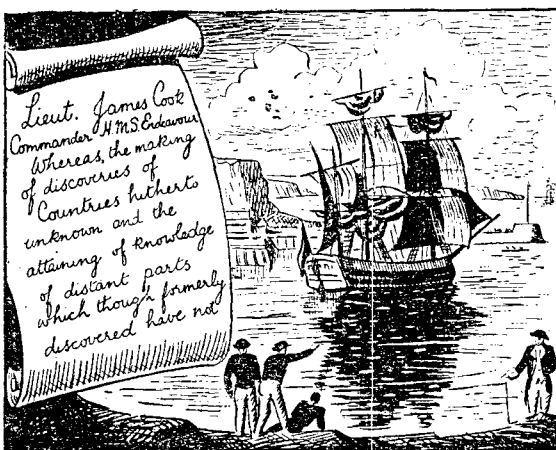
Many of our great schools and colleges have benefited from endowments in the form of land, made over to them in bygone centuries. Now a similar endowment of education in our times has been revealed. A rich man has given estates amounting to more than 13,000 acres in many parts of the country to be formed into a Trust, from which the profits are to be devoted to education.

He is 86-year-old Mr. Ernest E. Cook, formerly of the famous travel agency. He is one of those people who do good by stealth.

His new princely endowment of education could hardly be kept a secret. It is to be called The Ernest Cook Trust, and will consist of seven great estates, the largest of which is of 4552 acres. They include his own home at Bath. The rents from these lands will be used to support many kinds of educational foundations, helping young people on the estates, for instance, to become craftsmen and farmers.

Britain owes much to Mr. Ernest Cook. He gave to the National Trust the splendid Elizabethan mansion of Montacute in Somerset, and the Assembly rooms at Bath, which were unhappily destroyed during the war. He has given us other places of beauty and interest, and the National Trust is to have 8600 acres at his death.

PICTURE-STORY OF CAPTAIN COOK'S FIRST VOYAGE TO THE PACIFIC (1)



To observe the passage of the planet Venus across the disc of the Sun on June 3, 1769, members of the Royal Society sailed in H.M.S. Endeavour, commanded by Lieutenant James Cook, to Tahiti. This was thought to be the best point for observing the transit. Among the scientists on board was Mr. (later Sir) Joseph Banks, the great naturalist. It was at 2 p.m. on August 25, 1768, that the Endeavour sailed from Plymouth for the uncharted South Seas.



Born in Yorkshire, in 1728, Cook had been apprenticed to a Whitby shipowner, and had studied navigation. Entering the Navy, he had taken part in General Wolfe's attack on Quebec, and in a small boat had personally surveyed the approaches to the hostile shore under enemy guns. On one occasion he was pursued by Indians in canoes, but escaped.



Land was sighted in April 1769. This group of islands, which includes Tahiti, was named the Society Islands by Cook in honour of the Royal Society, which had arranged the expedition. Lieutenant Cook at once began the task of charting the islands, as was his invariable custom, and his charts remain today as models of painstaking accuracy.



Many of the crew were lost during the voyage through the ravages of scurvy. Cook suspected that the disease might be due to lack of fresh food, and his theory was tested and vindicated on his next voyage to the South Seas, when he lost only one man out of a ship's company of 118.

Cook prepares to set up camp, and meets the natives of Tahiti. See next week's instalment

MONDAY *Thrills and mystery on the river*

ADVENTURE

by John Pudney

Cruising up the Thames with Uncle George on the Bounty, Fred and I took the dinghy up a backwater leading to Blackmead Abbey, now a film studio. A sluice gate came up behind us; ahead, by a boathouse, the water suddenly churned and bubbled. "Back paddle!" shouted Fred.

2. The Lady in White

It was too late. I dug in the oars and nearly lost the starboard one as the dinghy suddenly slid sideways into a whirlpool. I heaved on the oar and, as we faced round the way we had come, I tried another stroke, but only managed to bring us into another whirlpool. All round us the water whirled and bubbled like the top of a boiling pot, but the motion came and went, turning us this way and that.

I pulled on both oars again, hoping to bring us to calmer water on the other side. All that this effort did was to head us straight for the bank by the steps. But here we were more lucky, for the water grew calmer.

"Grab hold of the branch, if you can, Fred. We'll be safer if we cling to the bank."

As I said this, we were carried out again, and Fred made a fierce face as if he were trying to yell and couldn't. "Pull for all your worth," he croaked. I bent over the oars and made three strokes in quick succession. "Ship them, quick!" Fred said, heaving the tiller over.

I was just in time to obey this order as we sped into the dark, calm water of the boathouse.

"Why on earth did you steer us in here?" I asked Fred, as we bumped against the slimy ruin of a decayed landing-stage and I grabbed at a chain to take the way off.

Fred raised his fingers to his lips. "Somebody came out of that long grass by the steps."

"So much the better. The sooner we ask for help..."

"But is wasn't any ordinary person," Fred whispered. "It looked like a woman, and she was all in white."

"Don't be an ass, Fred," I said, not feeling quite as bold as I tried to sound. "There's nothing wrong with a woman wearing white at this time of year."

Our eyes got used to the dark. It was a large boathouse, and the landing-stage which we had rammed as we entered ran all along one side. It was either luck or Fred's good steering which had brought us in so close, for much of the rest of the watery floor of the boathouse was taken up with wrecks and rubbish.

The place smelt of stagnant water and rot. Part of the wall and roof of the upstream side was made of wood, and this had given way and a creeper trailed down

through the open spaces. The downstream side above the landing-stage, to which I was still holding by a piece of old chain, was more solidly built of brick or stone. As the roof was still intact, it was much darker.

I could just make out a rusty, rather crooked spiral staircase leading to the upper floor which I had noticed from the outside, and at the far end a broken door let in a certain amount of green twilight. Most of the light, however, came in from the backwater, where there had once been double doors which had now fallen off their hinges.

There was no need for any double doors now. Though the boathouse must have been at one time a very grand affair, there was



A young ghost... in a white gown

nothing about it now to attract even the meanest scrounger. There was nothing, in fact, which made me want to stop there another minute.

"Look out in the backwater, Fred. As far as I can see, it's stopped bubbling altogether. Hadn't we better make our get-away while the going's good?"

Fred leant forward and gripped me by the wrist. "Shut up," he whispered. "There's somebody walking about overhead."

I LET go of my chain when I heard it. I was powerless to use the oars, of course, in that place, but I heaved at the landing-stage in order to pull us out into the backwater. Fred grabbed my wrist again with one hand and held tight to his chain with the other. "They'll see us, you fool. There's a window on the balcony."

"But Fred..." I was just about to say that it would be better for us to be seen out in the backwater getting away quickly before the turbulence in the water started again than to be found in this dismal hole, when there was a sound of a footstep on the spiral stairs.

I suppose most of us have wondered at some time or other if we really believed in ghosts. Uncle George, perhaps, because he was a

well-known scientist at Fort X, always made fun of the idea, but Fred and I had often talked about it.

I had felt a little worried when Fred had talked about a woman in white, although I had tried not to show it. Now I was frankly scared.

I gripped a slimy spar of the landing-stage with one hand and an oar with the other. It was like one of those dreams where you know that something is going to happen and yet you cannot move out of the way.

My mouth went dry. I could not even whisper. Somebody—something—was coming down the spiral staircase through the dust and cobwebs. The only part of me which would move was my head. By craning my neck, I could just see that the descending figure was dressed in white.

COULD a ghost make so much clatter—and whistle at the same time? I had never thought of ghosts making any other sounds but wailing and the clanking of chains. Women in white ought surely to glide silently, and this one—for it was a woman in white—seemed to be whistling to keep up her courage. Nor was she gliding. As we crouched there too scared to move, the white figure above us turned about and began to come down the stairs backwards.

Fred did not release my wrist, so he must have felt as I did—and I felt quite sure that it did not make any difference whether or not a ghost made a noise. Even if she chose to whistle Riders of the Range, I was still afraid of all ghosts in general and of this one in particular. Yet I could only wait there with a thumping heart and a stiff neck as she came down towards us.

She was a very young ghost, dressed in a long white gown with a tall, pointed head-dress like you sometimes see in pictures of people in the Middle Ages. Nobody but a ghost would wear such a get-up.

Fred's voice sounded like a fluttering of bats. "Push off. Let's get out of here."

I grabbed at a slipping oar, not daring to take my eyes off the figure on the stairs. We bumped away from the landing-stage, pushing blindly towards the backwater. We made a noise.

THEN the figure leaned over the handrail and spoke. She used the sort of voice that you hear from American girls in films. She said: "Say! Are you kids as scared of me as I am of you?"

I saw Fred's eyes in the twilight almost starting out of his head, and I knew that, like me, that film-voice scared him more than any ghostly wailing. It was all wrong in a place like that. It did not fit the white gown and strange head-dress. It was worse than no voice.

Fred's hand clawed at my oar. He pulled it out of the rowlock, and between us we nearly lost it. The ghost with the American accent scowled and came towards us.

I wetted my lips, trying to say something. I noticed with surprise that the owner of the voice

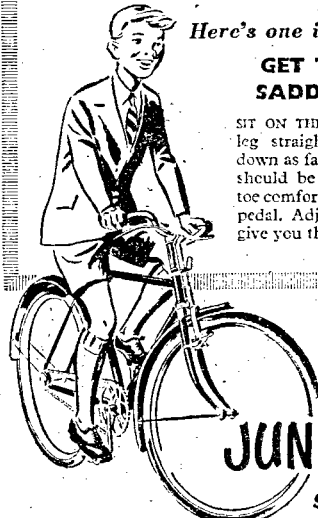
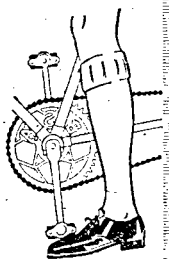
Continued on page 10

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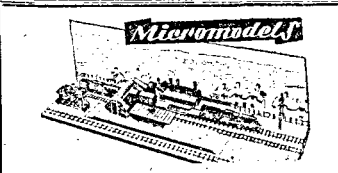
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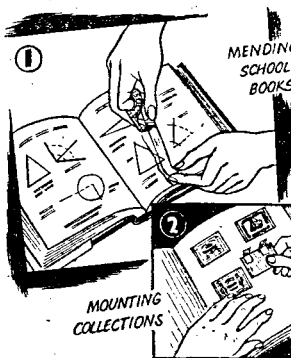
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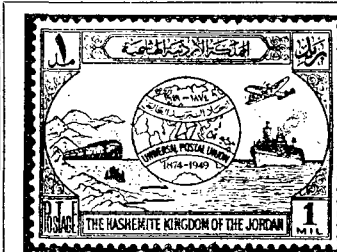
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SPORTS SHORTS

RICHARD BUTTON, world and Olympic figure skating champion, recently won the U.S. championship for the seventh successive year.

THE soccer stadium at Florence holds 90,000 people, but nearly two months before the England v. Italy match there (on May 19) the officials had already received 400,000 applications for tickets.

A NEW world swimming record for the 3 x 100 metres medley relay was recently set up by three Frenchmen. Alex Jany swam his 100 metres freestyle in 58.2 seconds, Maurice Lusien, breast-stroke, in 1 minute 7.8 seconds, and Gilbert Bozon equalled the world record back-stroke time of 1 minute 3.6 seconds.

Jumping to it

High jumps are called for in the Spanish game of Jai-alai, in which the ball is played off a wall, as in squash rackets or fives. A wire fence protects the spectators.

SCHOOLBOY football becomes more and more popular. A new record was set up recently when 80,000 boys watched the England v. Scotland soccer match at Wembley.

THE James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy, for the American athlete who does "most to advance the cause of good sportsmanship during the year," has been awarded to 25-year-old Revd. Robert Richards, an instructor in religious philosophy at the La Verne College, in Philadelphia. He is an outstanding pole vaulter and decathlon exponent. Recently he vaulted 15 feet 2½ inches indoors.

CONGRATULATIONS to 15-year-old Jill Rook, new British Junior open table tennis champion. She won the title at Wembley when she beat 17-year-old Sharon Koehnke, American and Canadian junior champion. Jill Rook is also the Surrey junior title holder, and during the summer she hopes to add to her laurels on the tennis court. This Merton Park schoolgirl is one of our most promising tennis juniors.

AUSTRALIAN swimmers John Marshall and John Davies continue to set up amazing times in American competitions. Davies, a student at the University of Michigan, set up a new world record for the 200-yards breast-stroke with a time of 2 minutes 12.9 seconds. John Marshall helped Yale University to gain a new U.S. 1000-metre (5 x 200) relay record in 10 minutes 36.9 seconds. Davies and Marshall have both been selected to represent Australia in the Olympic Games.

HAIL to another British ice queen, 17-year-old Valda Osborn, who recently became British figure skating champion. Valda, who comes from Hoo, in Kent, has been skating since she was seven, and took part in her first championship at the age of eleven. She is always out on the ice at Richmond at 7.30 a.m., skates until midday, and has a further two hours on the ice in the afternoon.

THE Football Association have chosen 25 British amateur players for special pre-Olympics training. From these players the team to represent Britain at Helsinki will be chosen. It is hoped that several well-known professional players will coach them.

AUSTRALIA'S Test cricket captain, Lindsay Hassett, finished the Australian season with 299, his eighth double century in first-class games and his 51st first-class century. With the exception of Sir Donald Bradman (115 centuries) and Warren Bardsley (53 centuries) Hassett has more centuries to his credit than any other Australian.

THE first of the annual Cup Finals at Wembley will be played on Saturday, when Workington and Featherstone Rovers meet in the big Rugby League match of the year. This is a red-letter day for these two teams, for neither has appeared before in the Challenge Cup Final.

Monday Adventure, by John Pudney

Continued from page 9

was no taller than Fred or me. I noticed, too, that the pointed head-dress was slightly askew, and that the very pink face beneath it looked more like that of a young girl than of a spirit.

"So you're acting dumb, eh?" she squeaked—and when you heard it close to, the voice was young.

"Excuse me," I found myself saying, "are you from America?"

"I'm a citizen of the United States. I come from New York City, and that's where I'd like to be back right now."

"I'm very sorry if we're trespassing." Fred had found his voice. "We didn't mean..."

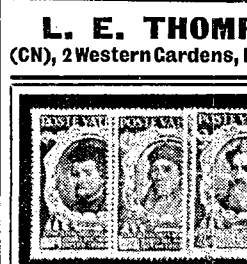
"Not half as sorry as you might have been if you hadn't met me. Why, anything might have happened to you in this place. And I mean anything." The American girl—I was sure now that she was no ghost—squatting down on the landing-stage, and I could see that she was badly scared. "My name's Annabel Despard Hook," she said, "and I've never needed the help of a couple of guys as much as I do right now."

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, April 19, 1952

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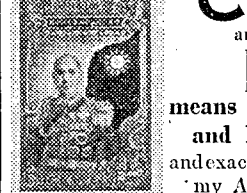
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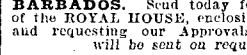
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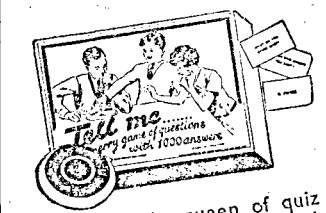
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Animals as Friends, by Margaret Shaw and James Fisher (Dent, 15s.).

THIS book supplies every possible piece of information that could be needed by those who wish to keep such unusual pets as foxes and bats, salamanders and stick insects, and many others.

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CATS AND HOW TO DRAW THEM, AND WILD ANIMALS AND HOW TO DRAW THEM, by Amy Hodgeboom (Putnam, 6s. each).

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NATURE PARLIAMENT, by L. Hugh Newman, Peter Scott, and James Fisher (Dent, 9s. 6d.).

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THE BRAN TUB

THAT'S DIFFERENT

"No, your honour," said the man in court, "I was not creating a disturbance, although I might have been making a noise."

"Oh," said the magistrate. "In that case, instead of fining you 20 shillings I shall fine you a pound."

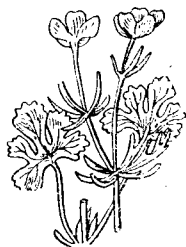
What is it?

WHAT is it we always have yet can never hold for very long?

Our breath

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

DURING early spring the yellow flowers of wood crowfoot, or goldilocks, can be found blooming in woods or bushy places, as the names suggest.



The five yellow petals are irregular in size and grow slightly apart from each other. Lower leaves are kidney-shaped, lobed, and borne on long stalks; upper ones are sessile and divided entirely into narrow strips. The round, erect stems are branched and grow about a foot high. The plant belongs to the buttercup family.

BEDTIME CORNER

Mr. Portly and the eggs

MR. PORTLY felt very proud of himself after his Easter adventure. This is what happened.

Ann and Christopher had been invited to stay on a farm for Easter weekend. The farmer had said they might bring Mr. Portly, though he preferred dogs, as they were more useful on the farm, as his collie Bess would show them.

When they arrived, however, they found that Bess was staying at the vet's to have a bad ear treated. "And I do miss her," the farmer had said. "She'd hunt out the nests of all these hens who've started laying in the paddock hedge instead of in their nesting boxes."

"Couldn't we hunt for you tomorrow?" the children asked. "Why, thank you," the farmer said gratefully. "But after you've had your own Egg Hunt. You see, I'm hiding your Easter eggs around the garden if it's fine."

"What fun!" cried Ann.

Well, it happened that Mr. Portly woke early enough next morning to go round in the

JACKO'S BALLOONS—AND BABY—ARE SAVED



Jacko had won a bunch of balloons at the fair, and Baby was proudly carrying them home. A blustering wind prompted Jacko to tell him to hold the balloons tightly or he would lose them. The words were hardly out of his mouth when a sudden gust caught the balloons and swept them away—with Baby, doing exactly as he was bid, holding on tightly. Away he sailed, a few feet above the ground. But Bouncer managed to leap up, grab hold of his coat and "bring him to earth." All the way home he was quite "puffed up" with pride.

RIDDLE-MY-TOWN

My first's in chill but not in cold;
My next in brave but not in bold;
My third's in silver, not in gold;
My fourth's in coast but not in shore;
My fifth's in drill but not in bore;
My sixth's in window, not in door;
My next's in budge but not in bid;
My last's in chastise, not in chide—
A town, and has a sting inside!

Answer next week

Fluttering figures

THERE are more than 60 species of butterflies in Britain and some 1500 varieties of moths.

RIDDLE IN RHYME

My first is very easy,
My second is a name.
My whole lives in a nursery rhyme,
A pie-man earned him fame.

Answer next week

Billy Bones



BILLY Bones, the buccannier,
Has hoards of hidden gold.
And anyone who comes too near,
Soon learns to be less bold.

CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked together, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two of the second, and so on.

1. English poet (1770-1850), leader of the revolt against the artificial note of 18th-century classical poetry; chief figure of the group known as the Lake School of Poets.

2. The Norse God of thunder, from whom Thursday is named. He fought with a magic hammer.

3. Great river of South America, rising in Venezuela and flowing into the Atlantic. It was near this river that Raleigh hoped to find El Dorado, the golden land.

4. German city on the Rhine with a notable twin-spired cathedral, begun in 1248 and finished in 1880; its name comes from the Latin Colonia Agrippinensis, a colony founded by Nero's mother, Agrippina.

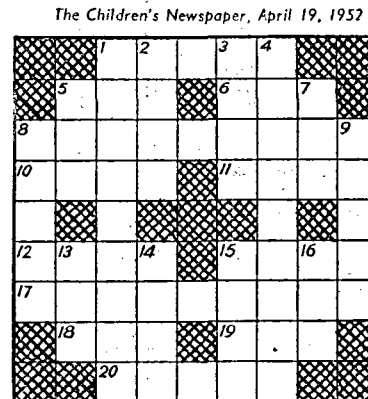
Answer next week

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Supports. 5 Said to a goose. 6 Operational Training Unit (abbrev.). 8 Unwilling. 10 Prepare for press. 11 Heavenly body. 12 We see with them. 15 Alack. 17 Recalls. 18 Black viscous liquid. 19 Yorkshire river. 20 Small amphibians.

READING DOWN. 1 Constable. 2 Utter defeat. 3 Cooking utensils. 4 Without a state. 5 You sleep in one. 7 United Nations Association. 8 Allude. 9 Prepare fowl before cooking. 13 Still. 14 Withered. 15 Aid. 16 Noah's ship.

Answer next week



Double meaning

The two missing words are pronounced the same, but have different meanings. What are they?

WHEN John saw the — was a bent one,
He made the most terrible fuss.
He was already in a bad temper,
For he'd had to — up for a bus.

AWKWARD QUESTION

FATHER had just finished relating some of his wartime exploits.

"But, Daddy," said his small son, "why did they have to have all those other soldiers?"

Hear, hear!

TWO bad-tempered children named Tricker

Would constantly quarrel and bicker.

All the neighbours agreed
That such cross children need
A house which has walls a lot thicker.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

THE COOT. "Ssh! There's a moorhen on the Long Pond," whispered Don to his sister Ann.

Cautiously the children approached. The swimmer was about 15 inches long, and dark-grey, almost black, in colour.

"It was too big for a moorhen," said Don, after the bird had vanished into some rushes. "Besides, its forehead and bill were white, whereas a moorhen's would be red."

"A coot," replied Farmer Gray, in answer to Don's questions. "The coot is not quite so widely distributed as the moorhen, although large numbers are often seen on ponds and lakes. Their food consists of freshwater shellfish, grain, water-plants, worms."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Name, please. Charles (Char Les)
Chain Quiz. Lhasa, Sargasso, Sorbonne, Neptune
Riddle-in-rhyme. Sparrow
Jumbled cities. Canberra, Dunedin, Toronto, Durban, Adelaide, Winnipeg



Six different chocolates



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Turkish Delight

Caramel, Praline Pâté

Coffee Cream and

Nougat in Milk or Plain

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